

[The Influenza Epidemic]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in Irish New England

TITLE Shoe Laster of Lynn - #5

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COMMENTS

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Assignment: The Shoe Laster of Lynn.

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“Well, how ya bin sence?

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"Sence I seen ya last, we've bin hevin' a bit a spreng weather. Tame, ain't it? We hed a long cold spreng. [?]

"An' ain't thiere bin a lotta sickness though? I niver seen the laike a all the pneumonia thiere's bin. An' most inybody thet ya see on the strate's (street) got a cold.

"But at thet, it ain't sa biad laike I knowed it ta ba miny's the tame in Lynn sence I come hiere. D'ya remimber the flu thet come the tame a the war? Alwiays a war brengs somethin' an' I alwiays thought thet flu wuzn't jest the flu. It wuz more laike the bumbatic pliague (bubonic plague). Anywiays a lotta thim thet daied a it, tirmed black, jest laike they wuz said ta heve tirmed black in Ireland in '46 an' '47 whin they hed the bumbatic pliague thiere. [?]

"Thra (three) months the rage a it wuz hiere in this city. Down in Philadelphia an' arou' thet wiay, I hierd it wuz a lot the worse, Thiere I guess they 2 daied laike fleas. [?]

"Wuz biad anough hiere too. The paople wuz scared iverywhiere. Most iverybody wore a bag with somethin' ' in it ta pravent [(prev / ent)?] gettin' it. Somethin' laike moth balls they wuz thet wuz in thet bag. I wore one laike all the rest.

"Iverybody wuz adrekin' whiskey too ta pravent it. I balave (believe) it helped too, Inywiey Inywiay it did ma. [?]

"I wuz in Boston whin I felt it comin' on ma. I took a coupla drenks an' ya know I hardly felt 'em atall. Iny other tame an' I'da bin afeelin' good from the drenks I took, but thim I didn't feel atall.

"Whin I got ta Lynn, I took a couple more, an' thim I din't feel neither. Jest laike I niver heda one. Whin I get home, I said to ma wife, 'I got the flu an' whin I get in bed, I wont ya ta give ma some more a this whiskey ta drenk.

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“ She did an' did I sweat? I hed ta kape [(ke / ep)?] changin' ma naightclothes two, thra tames. But ya know, it done the trick all raight. I wuz a lot better in the mornin'. [?]

“I hed ta kape awiay from the shop fir about a wake [(we / ek)?] though, an' sure felt wake [(we / ak)?] fir about a month. But I din't daiy [(di / e)?] laike a lotta others did. I thenk it wuz thet whiskey thet siaved 3 ma. [?] [?] [?]

“Whin I wint back ta wirk, thiery wuz only about four min in the renk rink whin thiery shoulda bin aroun' fifteen. Thiey wuz all sick with the flu. Thim thet wuz thiery looked at ma whin I come in an' said, ‘You're as pale as a ghost.’ “ 4 Consumption in the Shoe Shops .

“In the old diays thiery wuz an awful lotta consumption in the shops. Thin, the doctors said thet , thet disease run in families. An' I balave it does. Inywiays thin, thiey din't do nothin' about it, fir thiery wuzn't the hospitals an' the laike ta tiake care a thim. So most of thim fellas thet hed it, jest kept raight on wirkin' jest as long as thiey could. Miny's the one 'ould spit up blod blood sometames, but thiey kept on wirkin'. The [five?] is enough.

“I knowed one fella thet wirked at the bench with ma, thet hed it an' hed it biad. But he din't piay no spacial attintion ta it. He wuz alwiays cheerful. Well, one diay he hed a hemorrhage raight thiery bafore us. Thiey took him home an' the next diay he daied. [?]

“Yes, thiery wuz a lot laike thet. A body thet din't heve it, din't thenk thiery wuz iny hope atall fir inybody thet hed the consumption. But the one thet hed it wuz alwiays cheerful an' 'ould try ta miake himself balave he din't have it atall.

“Thet's the wiay with thim. But I balave it runs in families. Don't you?